



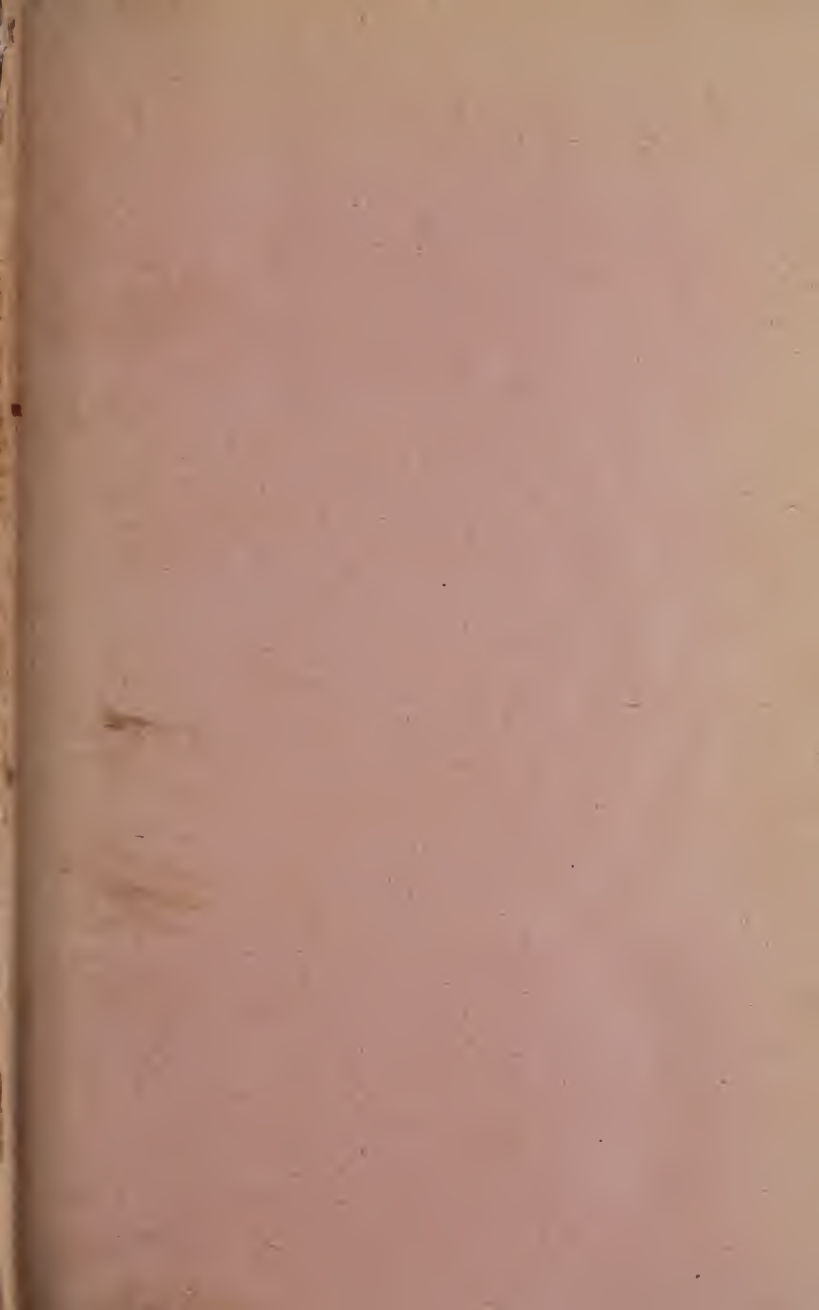
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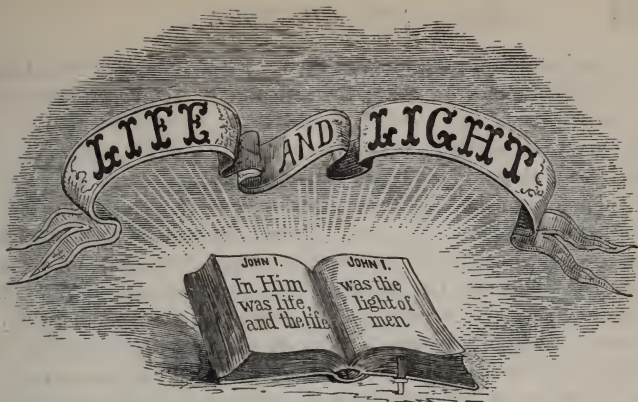
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FOR WOMAN.

VOL. VII.

NOVEMBER, 1877.

No. 11.

TURKEY.

THE FLIGHT FROM ESKI ZAGRA.

BY MRS. GEORGE D. MARSH.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Aug. 8, 1877.

THANK God we are all here safe! All our earthly possessions were easily carried in one small carpet-bag and a pair of saddle-bags. So much the telegram sent you yesterday will have told you long before this reaches you. But where or how to begin the long, long story of our flight!

A week ago yesterday, a large force of Turks engaged all the Russians on one side of Eski Zagra; but, while the Russians were occupied in beating them back, a still larger force came up on the other side, and took almost uncontested possession of the city. For days we had prayed hour by hour for wisdom to know what to do; and, when Sulieman Pasha's bombshells began to whiz over our heads as we sat at the dinner-table, we sprang to our feet, gathered together a change or two for the children, a few medicines, all our silver, our hammock, and Mr. Marsh's revolver, closed our shutters, locked the doors, and with Turskie (our horse), and Mr. Marsh's saddle, crept along under the shelter of the high wall's to Mr. Bond's house, in a Turkish quarter of the city. There for two hours we sat waiting in a deep, magazine-like cellar,

till the bombshells ceased, and the report of musketry and smashing in of doors drew near; then we ran to the door that opened into the yard of our Turkish neighbors, and found them all ready to come to our help, as we had secreted them from the Russians in their day of trouble. With gun and axe in hand, they guarded the doors from the barbarous Circassian soldiers, who were thirsting for infidel blood and gold. Twice, three times, they saved the lives of our husbands; and, when they could no longer withstand the onslaught, one ran to the konak, and was soon back with a guard of seven soldiers, who kept us safe till the next morning.

After a while, a young Turkish bey came to see if we were all right; and he and Mr. Marsh, accompanied by a guard, went to our house, to find it despoiled of every thing except books and pictures. Had we been there with no Turks to befriend us, we should have had hardly a chance for our lives. That night, the most important Christian quarter of the city was fired, and burned fiercely all night. Mr. Bond and Mr. Marsh watched, and I slept. Mrs. Bond has hardly slept at all the whole week.

The next morning, about nine o'clock, word was received from one of the principal beys to come to his house, as our quarter was to be bombarded. We hastily gathered up a few things, expecting to return in a day or two; but, on reaching the konak, we found them hastening all preparations for departure. "Come with us, and we will do all we can to help you," they said. We had not time to return to the house for any thing, so started as we were, — Georgie and I with the saddle-bags on Turskie, and Mr. Marsh walking beside us. With Mr. Bond and family and Benny, besides a few blankets, pillows, and children's clothes, in their carriage; with servants and other dependants who had taken refuge with us, and whom we could not turn into the streets to be murdered, crowded close together between the carriage and my horse, — we started with the multitude for the nearest railroad-station, eight hours distant.

We rode out of the city between smoking heaps of ruins, over dead bodies of men and women, and the *débris* of all the rifled shops. Most of the crowd were in ox-wagons, heavily loaded with plunder; of these there must have been nearly two thousand, besides an innumerable company mounted on donkeys and horses, on oxen and cows even, and as many more on foot. They were mostly Turks, with a good many Jews, and a few Bulgarians and Greeks, escaping, as our servants were doing, under the protection of some friends.

That first day we rode one hour's distance out of the city, when the order came from the commandant to turn back within the cordon, as it was uncertain whether there were not Russian soldiers still in the vicinity. So back turned that great company, and camped down near the city, which by this time had been fired in many places. We had for provision a small can of crackers and two cans of condensed milk, and we were seventeen souls! As the long, dreadful afternoon wore away, the children began to cry for bread, but were amused and partly satisfied by kernels of wheat shelled out from the sheaves provided for the horses. But our greatest suffering on that day, as on all the journey, was for water. You can imagine what it must be to provide water for so great a crowd.

Towards night the Turkish women began to take down their flour-bags, and make little cakes, which they baked over fires of straw and sticks, which could be gathered here and there. For the children's sake, they gave us a bit here and a bit there, and one woman brought us some milk: so the little ones did not go hungry to bed. For the night, Georgie, Benny, and I crept under the wagon, and lay down on a rubber blanket. Mrs. Bond gave us a blanket to cover us; and I actually slept in that situation five hours. Mr. Bond's family slept in the carriage; and the gentlemen took turns in watching, the servants lying close by the carriage. All that night and the next, it was as light as day from the burning city.

Thursday morning we made an early start, and plodded on, through the heat and terrible dust, till two o'clock, when we were again stopped, having made but nine miles. That night people had begun to understand camping a little better, and killed sheep and goats: so we had some meat; and again kind-hearted women brought milk and bread for the children. That night I slept better still; and Mr. Marsh slept also, though not till he had had a hair-breadth escape from some soldiers, who, seeing his hat, had determined to make way with him; but the same good friend, Enem Bey, heard his calls, and saved him. The next morning we started at three o'clock, but were hardly in moving-order, when the word came that we could not go on: soldiers had been seen in the distance. After a tedious delay of some two hours, however, we did move, and kept on till eight o'clock at night, when we reached the railroad-station. Couldn't we each one of us have kissed those rails which were to take us away from all the horrors we had left behind?

Early the next morning Mr. Marsh went to the station, and found some English gentlemen, physicians and newspaper correspondents, one of whom took us to his little stable-like room, and showed us every kindness all through the day. The trains, which were transporting soldiers and stores to the front, and carrying the wounded to the rear, did not run with any regularity. During the night three long trains took off most of the people who did not go on with their ox-carts to Adrianople. That was a very hard night for us all. As each train came in, Mr. Marsh and I went down to the station, to see if it were best for us to go, and each time decided to wait till morning.

At five o'clock we began to put our things on the train, and at six o'clock we were off. The commandant had promised us, the day before, to take on our horses, but at the last moment he refused; and we were glad to give Lady Strangford's horse, and to sell Mr. Bond's horse and carriage for ten pounds, to the Red Cross Society, which is doing a noble work among the sick and wounded. Our train of forty-nine cars was filled with Bulgarian women and children, whom the Turks had gathered from the villages they had burned; killing their husbands, and, by order of Sulieman Pasha, every boy over seven years old: so we were told, and we believe it, from what we have seen. Weary, wounded, faint, and hungry, they were piled in like so many sheep.

Thousands followed yesterday to Adrianople. Consul Blunt (English) met us in Adrianople, and the next Monday night we reached Constantinople. Oh the bliss of being safe, and the children clean and satisfied!

[Our readers will be glad to know, that through the efforts of the ladies in Dorchester, Mass., and others, a good-sized box of clothing was sent to Mrs. Marsh to relieve the present necessities of herself and children; and that the family are comfortably settled for the winter in Constantinople. As was natural, the anxiety and exposure of their flight has had its effect upon their physical health. A recent letter from Constantinople states that the children have been sick ever since they came, and Mr. Marsh in bed several days with fever. May the same good hand that protected them in the extremity of their peril keep them from all evil during the coming months!]

At the capital of Madagascar a native missionary society has been formed, of which the queen and prime-minister are members.

AFRICA.

LETTER FROM MRS. S. W. TYLER.

I HAVE enjoyed a little missionary tour lately, that may be of interest to you also. Although I should altogether prefer to have taken some of you along with me in reality, perhaps I can bring it before you, in some measure, by pen and paper.

The necessity for supplying all the requisites for a journey in an ox-wagon absorbs several days' thought and time; but so much of the comfort of travelling depends on this, that we do not consider it lost work. All things being ready, we bundled into the wagon, taking with us our eight-year-old Nellie, with her doll and her "Apples of Gold," leaving our eldest son, and daughter of fifteen, to carry on necessary work at home. Mr. Rood and Mr. Pixley joined us at Durban. On the morning of the third day, having spent two nights in our wagons, we arrived at our old Table-mountain Station, and alighted at Daniel's door. The last part of the way was a succession of hills and valleys, and we felt considerably shaken; but, after a good rest and a hearty dinner, we were ready for a meeting with the natives, which had been appointed in anticipation of our arrival.

It being Saturday, Daniel's wife had gone to the river to wash their Sunday clothes, and we did not see her till just before the horn blew for service. She had cleared and cleaned her principal room for our use, leaving a bed-room at each end for herself and family. We put our little travelling table by the side of hers; and accepting her offer of two home-made chairs and one wooden one, — the only furniture the house contained, — together with our two folding ones, we managed to take our meals very comfortably. The house being destitute of windows, whenever the wind blew too strongly to allow the opening of the door, we were obliged to light a candle. Our wagon-driver cooked for us outside the house. The pork, which had been salted for our special use, hung in quarters over the bed-rooms; the hens laid eggs for us at the door; and the cows from a neighboring kraal furnished us with a bottle of milk daily. Finding the wagon rather too small for three persons at night, we removed our mattresses to the chapel, which we found sufficiently airy; while Messrs. Rood and Pixley kept to their wagon. Thus much for the bodily part.

At the second blowing of the horn, the people, both clad and unclad, began to crowd into the chapel. Every space was filled,

and they all looked as if they were accustomed to assemble there. Mr. Rood led the meeting; and, after a few prayers and exhortations, the candidates for admission to the church were examined. Some gave satisfactory answers to questions asked; others seemed only to know that Christ died to save them from their sins, that they ought to love him; and that they wanted to be counted among God's people here, as they hoped to be in heaven. They gradually learn to understand the way of salvation and the duties enjoined upon Christians; but I think their ideas of entering the church are different from ours. Twenty-four desired admission, fathers, mothers, and children. They had all been previously instructed by Umbiana, our first native missionary. He had found them living on Dutch farms, where they sometimes met with a German missionary; and he had visited them, and helped them in various ways. He sent his younger brother Daniel to the Amanzimtote seminary, where he and his wife were taught much that will make them useful missionaries. When Daniel left the seminary, he came with these people to our old Table-mountain Station, which had been formerly occupied by Rev. Mr. Döhne. The chief is glad to have a missionary there, and every thing promises favorably for a good station.

On Sunday the church was formed with twenty-four members, and nineteen children were baptized. On Monday morning the women came together for a meeting, and remained most of the day, bringing cloth for me to cut garments, and asking how to do many things that were new to them. They begged me to send patterns of coats, pants, and jackets, as they did not know how to cut well, though several could make them when they had them fitted. Sophia, Daniel's wife, sings well; and she was quite pleased that Nellie could teach her the translation of "Hold the Fort," which was new to her.

On Monday afternoon we had another meeting with the people, when the missionaries talked freely about their duties to their pastor, the desirableness of regular contributions, and other church-work. I forgot to say that on Sunday a collection was taken up; and one old heathen man, who had not his money with him, ran home to get his two shillings, being particular to tell the missionaries several times afterward how large his contribution was. The people seemed very grateful for all the help we were able to give them, and they were very reluctant to part with us, especially in the closing meeting. We shall watch with much interest the

future of this new station, and ask your prayers for Daniel and Sophia, as well as for their two children, Belteshazzar and Gracie.

We spent the next sabbath at Umbiana's station, and on Monday, after an early prayer-meeting, went on to Esidumbini, where a meeting was appointed for the afternoon. We passed the houses of a few families who had moved from Inanda station for the benefit of their cattle. I was particularly anxious to see the wives and mothers there. One of them was the first girl I took from heathenism at our old station; and her daughter is now living with me. Major Malan, in his book on South African missions, speaks of riding past the houses of these families, and notes the contrast between them and the huts of the heathen which lay along the valley. He says, "Who can value the privilege of being able to help in such a work?" Unfortunately, the day we passed them, the houses were closed, and the people at work in their gardens, where we could not go.

We hastened on; and, as we approached our dear old station, every hill and valley became familiar, and even the trees seemed like old friends. My heart was full, as usual; and I had to keep back many thoughts and suggestions, and banish old memories while I tried to take in the improvements. The chapel had been re-thatched, and the roof put on the house, which made it look brighter. As I stepped from the wagon, Thomas shook my hand most cordially, and said, "You are tired: walk into the house and rest you." He led the way into our old parlor, and handed me my old rocking-chair, which came here with us in 1849. He looked highly pleased that he had part of the house in readiness. Our family photograph hung on one side of the room, — the only picture. Was he not thoughtful?

At the meeting in the afternoon, the great questions were, whether the people wished Thomas to settle over them as their pastor, and whether they would support him. They voted in the affirmative; and some money was subscribed. Candidates were examined for admission to the church, among whom was one man who has wished to be received for several years; but there has been some doubt about his fitness. Now they were willing to admit him; but the missionaries questioned him on his ideas of *ukulobolisa*, i.e., selling daughters or sisters for wives. He was not quite prepared to express himself on that point. Poor fellow! The vision of his five young daughters probably rose between him and the church just then. He made some inquiries about the prac-

tice of others on this point, and did not give a decided answer till the next day, then he said he was willing to give it up.

We had the communion on Tuesday afternoon. Six adults were received, and eleven children baptized. While we rejoiced in these accessions, there was a deep sadness over the case of one who had united when the church was first formed. He had lately taken another wife, and gone to live about five miles away. He said he wanted his first wife, who is an invalid, to remain with the children at the station, to be supported by him. He desired to attend service on Sunday, and to live in a Christian way, as he saw nothing wrong in what he had done. For the sake of example, however, the church decided that his whole family must remove, and his home, which was the best and most civilized in the station, be given over to some one else. Such cases are sad, and hard to decide upon. They need more than human wisdom, and we hope divine aid is given. He said to me, "I can't see why my children need to be deprived of all this on my account. Why should they be punished for my sin?" We try to pity the weakness of these people, and ask for great strength to be given them.

I had a large gathering of women and children in the afternoon, and saw many of my little scholars, grown almost past recognition. Some fine young women called me mother, because they studied and grew up with my children. We concluded to leave Esidumbini by night, as we should be obliged to walk a good deal, and I could do it much better by moonlight than in the hot sun. Accordingly we started at eight o'clock, and reached Umzunduzi at half-past one.

It was several days before I recovered from my fatigue, but I felt abundantly repaid for it. It is so cheering to visit these little oases in the desert of heathenism, to see with one's own eyes the blessed work of the Lord through the instrumentality of such feeble servants as he deigns to use!

INDIA.

FAMINE EXPERIENCES.

WE make the following extracts from recent letters in regard to the famine which is causing such desolation in India at the present time. Under date of July 30 Miss Sisson writes from Madura:—

“Alas that this year’s letters must take up the same sad wail as the last! Yet the famine from last year’s drought, and the drought that promises another year’s famine, is upon us. In what a fearful dictionary are we reading the definition of that word ‘famine,’ — a definition drawn out in living characters, that, alas! die so soon. The principal meals of this people are taken in the early morning and late evening; and so, with the hope of obtaining food from the well-to-do people, the famishing wander about in crowds, crying in their faint, wailing tones, ‘Food, food, give us food!’ Many whose tables are not sufficiently supplied for themselves and children yet rise and take a little portion to some one of the trembling, fainting ones at their doors. This piteous cry of ‘Food, food, give us food!’ does not subside through all the streets until past midnight. Do you wonder that the slumbers of those who have any compassion in their hearts are troubled with strange dreams, and that the morning finds them unrefreshed for the day’s labors?”

“In the relief camp in this city the government feeds a thousand daily; and municipal and private charities have camps where perhaps five hundred more are fed: but, outside of all this help, there are thousands dying of starvation. With the loss of population and cattle, the whole face of this district will have been changed before the scourge is past. Our poor Christians have felt it sorely, and our congregations are sadly reduced. The judgments of God are abroad in the land. Oh that the people would learn righteousness!”

Mrs. Chandler writes from Pulney July 16: —

“We are in the midst of such a famine as we have never known. The future prospect looks darker still, as in July we usually have the early rains, which enable the people to sow their seed; but so far all has failed. By deepening our already deep well, we are now able to get a little water; but we have been obliged to buy all we have used for six months past. Prices have never been so high, and grain never so scarce; the market is now entirely dependent on rice brought from other countries: Burmah has furnished great quantities of supplies. Trees are dying all through this region, and there is no work for the people except that supplied by government. Near our house, government has established a relief camp for those unable to work, and in it to-day are three thousand people. They are fed twice a day, and every thing is done for them which can be, with so little help. One young Eng-

lishman superintends all this, and several other camps in this Pulney township, or 'talug,' as it is called. He has also commenced tanks and roads which employ ten thousand laborers.

"I try to aid in the relief work by going to the camp, and looking after mothers with infants. Oh! how your motherly hearts would ache to see what I see, and be unable to relieve! As I went in one morning, a mother was wailing over a sweet little babe which had just breathed out its life. It was on the ground, on a plaited leaf of a cocoanut-tree, with a filthy rag laid over its little form. The mother bent over it as tenderly as you would have done, crying, 'My fourth boy has gone, — my last and only son! My husband has left me, and now all my boys are dead! O *Swamy* (God) my baby is dead!'

Soon the sweeper, a low-caste man who removes nuisances, came in with a hoe to take the little body away to the potter's field; but the mother refused to give him her baby. I had taken with me, as I always do, some towels and soft cloths for sick babies, and these I spread over the little form. Then, as a group of forty or fifty mothers stood quietly around, I told them of God's love in taking this child, to save it from sin and suffering; that now it was forever safe in a palace, and hereafter would be the son of a King, never to be hungry again, never to cry any more. They listened, and I hope the Lord may open their hearts to receive the truth. I explained to them that the reason that the babies all went to this beautiful place was because they had never sinned; and I told them that they must pray for the older children, who were constantly doing what they knew to be wrong, and breaking the laws of the true God. We have frequent occasion to remind these people that it is the love prompted in the hearts of his children by this only loving God and Father, which is now saving them alive. No heathen government has ever done what is being done now.

"Now is the time to obtain high-caste children for an orphanage, and to train up teachers from that class, — a great want in our mission, as most of our people are low caste, and cannot mingle with the higher. We have started, since February, a day school for heathen caste-girls, in which are a number of Brahmin girls who seem to like to come. Since June we have opened a boarding-school for Christian girls, and have eighteen boarders and eight day scholars. We have no schoolhouse yet: they study on our veranda.

"Pray as never before for the Madura district and for us all."

[Since the above was in type, letters have been received, stating that fully one-quarter of the population of the Madura district have died from the effects of the famine, and there is reason to fear, that, unless there is speedy relief, another fourth will perish in the same way the coming year.]

Our Work at Home.

HISTORY OF FALLOWFIELD AUXILIARY.

NUMBER FOUR.

WE must now turn to another fruitful source of income, — our annual sale of work. We commenced this in our second year, and at our first sale took over a hundred dollars. Encouraged in our first attempt in this direction, we determined to go on: indeed, *go on* has in all things been our motto, in the name of the Lord. We have continued these sales every year since the first, with a gradual but decided advance each year.

To me these sales are a mystery: where all the things come from, who makes them, who buys them, are marvels to me. The parsonage door-bell seems to be alive for a day or two before the sale. A poor old widow sends a pair of knitted stockings; a little child brings a doll; another comes with a parcel, with "Please, mother's sent this for the *buzzar*." Then there are innumerable parcels, — things useful, and things ornamental, and things that seem to be neither one thing nor the other, curious toys, children's garments for all ages, useful clothing, and divers things which I should include under the head of knick-knacks.

But the ladies and little ones are not the only contributors. Strong men help also. A clever wood-turner has sent us candlesticks which have sold for over ten dollars; others have given paper-cutters made with a pen-knife, potato-mashers, rulers, a table nicely polished, rolling-pins, washing-tubs, children's wheelbarrows and carts, tops, inkstands, and an almost endless variety of articles. Then we have a refreshment table, which the shopkeepers of Fallowfield voluntarily furnish with cakes and confectionery. Recently, too, we have established a juvenile table. The

parish is set up with dolls for a whole year, and no baby can possibly be without a pair of well-made socks. The shoemaker sends shoes and slippers; the painter paints every thing that requires painting; and every thing that has to be done is done by some one, and all do it cheerfully and gratuitously.

Then we have a Christmas-tree that yields wonderful fruit. We plant it in a deep flower-tub, filled with heavy coals, so that it stands firmly, and will bear a slight tug now and then. One year we made a variation. Instead of a tree, we went down to our river, and borrowed a boat and a few spars. Then we sent round to all our neighbors, and borrowed a plentiful supply of clothes-lines. We set up the masts, and fixed the bowsprit, and rigged out the yards, and tried our best to make it look like a ship. On the rigging we hung all the innumerable things that were usually on the tree: the dolls were sailors, and the kettle-holders were flags; and we all agreed that it looked very well. A good friend with his cart took it to and fro, and very proud he seemed to do so.

Then the decorating! Oh, what a business it is! and yet it seems to be done by magic. First the tables are set up; boards and trestles, and men to fix them, all freely given by a neighboring builder. Large flags and smaller banners are borrowed; illuminated texts and mottoes adorn the walls; country gardens are laid under tribute for evergreens; many hands are making wreaths; strong arms are moving a huge ladder in a way that shakes weak nerves. Some secret business is going on in a small side-room, which I am supposed not to know any thing about till I am made to wonder at the long chains of colored links of tissue-paper, suspended in all directions from the roof. Everybody says the room looks beautifully, and all agree each time that it looks better than any time before. Really I sometimes think if this decorating were all we did, it would be worth all; it is so pleasant to see a score or two active workers going about the business with so much good-temper, and to hear the smiling pleasantry, and the criticisms of in-comers, and the wonder of all! "You must be tired, John," you say to a perspiring workman as he takes a last admiring look at the room. "It's all in a good cause," is John's cheery response. The "things" are all arranged on the table the night before; and, when the morning comes, we open our sale by seeking the blessing of God upon it. And we have always had his blessing, peace and harmony among ourselves, and good fruit to lay upon his altar.

Bills announcing the sale are freely posted about the town, displayed in shop-windows, and hung about at frequent corners, on boards. It is announced in our weekly paper, and every effort put forth to make it known.

Our sale is purely a sale. We have no raffling; no one ever dreams of it: we should look upon it as little short of gambling. To our clergyman it is a very useful time. There are many in a town, who come to church, and whom the minister has no means of knowing, or perhaps even of seeing: these are almost sure to turn up at the sale. An opportunity is afforded of saying a word to some whom one never sees at any other time. Some years ago a young man, a stranger in Fallowfield, came to the sale. His visit led to his conversion to God, and he became an active worker in the parish. So one often makes the acquaintance of new-comers, and gains a godly influence over them.

Our sale is open two days, from noon to nine. In the evening our room is thronged. The younger ones with their pennies find their way thither; working-men and their wives, young men and maidens who are occupied throughout the day, put in a smiling appearance. When nine o'clock comes, the "things" are covered with cloths, the money collected together, counted, the amount announced, and the day's work concluded by singing the good old Doxology, and a word of thanks to God for his blessing. When nine o'clock sounds the second day, the work is done. The remnants are gathered into boxes; the ladder aforesaid is introduced; lithe young fellows seem to run up the walls; every decoration is speedily taken down; and by the next morning no one would ever know that bright banners and graceful chains of tissue-paper had ever adorned the room.

"But are there no evils connected with such sales as that which has been described?" asks some timid friend, zealous for the honor of Christ and the purity of his cause. As this is a question that may be answered at some length, we will reserve the reply for the next number.

"DO NOT ALL CHURCH-MEMBERS DO THE SAME?"

WITHIN the limits of a New-England city lives a humble Christian Scotch woman, who seems to have learned some secret not widely known, certainly not widely practised, as to Christian giving. In the late unprecedented season, when her husband

belonged to the class "out of employment," the little family of four were supported by her own daily labor from house to house, in doing family washing. One morning in the early spring she appeared at the parsonage with a little paper parcel containing "money for the missionaries," amounting in all to two dollars and thirty cents, which she quietly laid on the table by my side.

"Why, Mrs. B——!" I exclaimed in surprise, when I had counted over the little hoard, "how can you give so much? Don't you need it for yourself?"

"Oh, no!" she answered in her rich Scotch brogue, which I will not attempt to reproduce, "it is the Lord's. He has been so good to provide work for me all this winter, that I want to be sure he has his part of all I earn. I always put away a part of every dollar for him."

"That is a good habit to fall into," I answered, thinking of the joy there would be on missionary ground, if all Christian women had this habit.

"Yes," was the answer: "I was taught to do it in the old home in Scotland. We always had a little box for missionary money standing on the shelf; and when any one in the family — father, or mother, or children — had any money, no matter how we got it, a part of it was put in the Lord's box before we spent any for ourselves."

Her husband had learned the same lesson also, in his father's house, and sometimes reminded the good woman that she had taken nothing out of her last dollar, hardly patient to wait till the note had been broken, and the sacred portion set free. Her children also entered heartily into the same plan, never spending a dime for self till a part of it rested safely in the little box. The discussion — in which the good woman surely got the better of her friend, and which cannot be given here — ended with, "Why, Mrs. H——, don't all the members of our church do the same?"

Not long after this, some member of the family read in a little paper that had been loaned them an account of one of the many hens which have of late been set apart for charitable uses. This gave them a new purpose. The finest fowl in their little yard was selected for a missionary hen, and was soon reported as spreading her wings over a family of fine promise. When asked what was the plan for the little brood, the reply was, "They are all missionary chickens, *of course*."

I began to wonder whereunto the thing might grow. The

mother-hen was on the right track, evidently; so were her immediate progeny: would the succession continue through grand-chickens and great-grand-chickens? Ah, no! the narrow quarters and limited commissary must soon circumscribe the widening census of these beautiful bipeds: hence, after another interval, my questions took practical shape. Last week I proposed to buy one or two of the ten for table-use, hoping our missionary zeal might grow by what it fed on; but I was promptly informed that they would be kept, this choicest family in chickendom, till near Thanksgiving, when they will be "large enough to amount to something." Then the charmed circle will be broken, no doubt; but let us hope that the "survival of the fittest" may preserve the race from extinction.

R. W. H.

OUR MISSIONARIES.

BY MRS. D. P. BROWNE.

THE "City of Peking," after more than a week's delay, left at twelve o'clock to-day. Of the nearly one thousand passengers on board, the little group gathered at one end of the vessel was of more interest than all beside, not only to myself and the readers of the "Life and Light," but is it too much to say to the — world? Going forth as so many of them were with the freshness and enthusiasm of a consecrated youth, they filled all hearts with joy. When I saw that noble band of ladies going alone, yet not alone, to their work, I realized as never before what it is to give up all for Christ. They were leaving us in homes of comfort and Christian churches, and the thousand things that make this life beautiful, to go amid darkness and filth; yet they went hopefully, joyfully, feeling, doubtless, that there would be joy not only in heaven, but on earth, over many a soul won to Christ through them. Let us pray more for our missionaries. We do not seem so very far from them, when we realize that at the same moment they and we are speaking to one Father, though seas divide us. Let us follow these missionaries and others with ferns and autumn leaves gathered in the woods and hills they loved; let us send them loving letters from their native land, expecting few in return, except through "Life and Light," which should find its way into so many homes, that a missionary will know that a letter there will be read by all her friends. So the "Life and Light" will

grow more and more to be the link binding hearts across continents and seas. As I read its pages, and see name after name of those I have met in years gone by, I feel that we are still meeting in thought and love.

But all this time the "City of Peking" is standing in the San Francisco harbor, and one after another comes on shore, as a loud voice again and again, calls "All ashore." Over six hundred Chinese are on this vessel, returning to their native land; and there are several Methodist missionaries on board.

First comes Mrs. Pierson, — she is not alone; for beside her stands her husband, who is returning so hopefully to his work, that others catch his spirit; then his sister, *en route* for Pautingfoo, Northern China. Miss Wilson and Miss Parmelee, for Kioto, are eminently fitted for their work. Their somewhat lengthened stay, while waiting for the steamer to sail, gave us a better opportunity to become acquainted with them. There was with them O Fugee San, a young Japanese girl, who came to this country with Mr. and Mrs. Gordon (now returning); there was also Mr. Burnell, just starting for an evangelistic trip around the world. There were Miss Anderson, M.D., and Miss Barr, who were going out under appointment of the Presbyterian Board. They were on their way to China, and were taking with them a Chinese woman, Ah Yoon, from the Chinese Home.

As we stood upon the wharf, waiting for the vessel to leave, some one on board asked for a parting prayer. One of the clergymen offered a brief one, commending them to the God of land and sea; then a voice struck up grand old Coronation, which was caught up by those on board. Many an idle listener on the deck was, we doubt not, taken back to his Eastern home, as one after another of the familiar hymns were sung. Then some one called for "Ye Christian heralds, go proclaim." The Doxology was sung, the benediction solemnly pronounced, the hawser was drawn, the "City of Peking" moved, handkerchiefs were waved; and we were parted, never all again to meet on earth. We walked slowly away in little groups, thinking what noble Christian mothers there were in America to give their young daughters to the foreign work. When one of them was asked when she first had the missionary spirit, she replied, "When I sat on my mother's lap, before I could speak; and, when a child only eight years old, I started for China, but only went two blocks." Are our little ones learning thus early what a blessed thing it will be to tell the old, old story in a land where it will not be old, but new?

The Board of the Pacific seems to gather in all the ladies of the Congregational Church. The meetings are large, and full of interest. One would almost think one's self in New England, to be present. The missionaries to and from their fields of labor find in many a Christian home a loving welcome. What did the missionaries do before the days of Woman's Boards?

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 12.

The Dying Buddhist.

THE incense still is smoking on the strand;
The gilded image of my God is nigh;
The stringéd beads are in my stiffening hand:
Why, then, in darkness am I left to die?

O Buddha, Buddha! on thy name I call;
And yet I know not thou hast heard my cry;
I know not what my spirit shall befall:
Why in my darkness am I left to die?

A-mi-da-Buddha! countless are the prayers
My lips have offered thus. May I rely
That these suffice? or is there none who hears?
Why in my darkness am I left to die?

Impassive Deity! Hast thou no breast
My pains to pity. Thine averted eye
Is closed in holy calm; yet give me rest:
Why in my darkness am I left to die?

The faults of youth, the sins of riper years,
Like a huge burden on my spirit lie:
Who shall deliver me from all my fears?
Why in my darkness am I left to die?

The priests of Buddha have received their dues,
Guatama! I have served thee faithfully:
What sacrifice did I to thee refuse?
Why, then, in darkness am I left to die?

I fear the punishments that must await
All who are wicked; pains they cannot fly:
Though for my sins I've sought to compensate,
In double darkness I am left to die.

Is there no light? There's none! No help I see;
None comes in answer to my bitter cry,—
"A-mi-da-Buddha! save!" Alas for me!
Alas! In darkness I am left to die.

"GOOD TIMES."

THOSE of our readers who are in need of material for mission-circle entertainments would do well to subscribe for "Good Times," a new monthly magazine devoted to dialogues, songs, and recitations for special occasions. The Mission Department of the first number contains several sprightly contributions well adapted to meetings of mission-circles. A recitation from some young girl at auxiliary meetings often gives pleasing variety to the exercises.

Address Mrs. M. B. C. Slade, Fall River, Mass. Terms \$1.00 per year; single copies 15 cents.

TO OUR PATRONS.

WE regret the necessity of again reminding our friends that the year is drawing to a close with nearly two thousand delinquent subscribers to "Life and Light." If you are one of this number, please send us sixty cents at once, by check, postal order, or registered letter. No other way of remittance by mail is safe; and we repeat this caution given earlier in the year.

WOMAN'S BOARD OF MISSIONS.

RECEIPTS FROM AUG. 18, 1877, TO SEPT. 18, 1877.

MRS. BENJAMIN E. BATES, TREASURER.

MAINE.

<i>Maine Branch.</i> — Mrs. Woodbury	
S. Dana, Treas., Bridgton, Aux.,	
\$20; Norridgewock, Aux., \$12;	
Bethel, 1st Ch., Aux., \$8.75;	
Portland, Aux., Williston Ch.,	
\$2.54,	\$43 29
<i>Albany.</i> — Mrs. H. G. Lovejoy,	5 00
<i>Kennebunk.</i> — Union Ch.,	1 00
Total,	\$49 29

Fem. Dep. Armenia College.

<i>Maine Branch.</i> — Foxcroft and	
Dover, Aux.,	\$15 00

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

New Hampshire Branch. — Miss Abby E. McIntire, Treas., Amherst, Aux., \$26; Derry, "May-Flower Mission-Band," of wh. \$25 to const. L. M. Mrs. Maria B. Haskins, \$48; Exeter, Aux., \$17.10; A few ladies, \$27.65;

2d Cong. S. S., Miss Gordon's cl., \$1.06; cl. of little boys, \$1.05; Fitzwilliam, Mrs. Colby's S. S. cl., Kioto, \$3; Franklin Cong. Ch. and Soc'y, \$25; Goffstown, Aux., \$12; Greenland, Aux., \$25.37; "Mission-Band," \$24.63; Hampton, "Mizpah Circle," pupil, Aintab, \$40; Haverhill, Aux., \$20; Henniker, Aux., \$14; Hillsboro' Bridge, Aux., \$10; Hopkinton, Mrs. Eliza D. Gerrish, West Creek, Ind., to const. L. M. Charlotte Eliza Treed, \$25; Kingston, Aux., \$15; Lempster, Aux., 1st Cong. Ch., \$8.81; Littleton, Aux., \$21; Manchester, Aux., 1st Cong. Ch. (of wh. \$25 to const. L. M. Mrs. S. E. Gilbert), \$41; Miss Mary A. Allison, \$12; Franklin-st. Ch., Aux., \$117; "Earnest Workers," of wh. \$30 for B. R., \$83; Mason, Aux., \$8; Merrimack, Aux., \$18.65; Milford,

Aux., \$25; Mrs. J. M. Ellis to const. herself L. M., \$25; Newington, Aux., \$2; Newport, Aux., \$42.50; Northampton, Aux., Strawberry Festival, \$20.20; North Haverhill and Plaistow, "We Girls," to const. L. M.'s Misses L. Frances Kimball, Sarah M. Clark, \$50; Peterboro'. U.E.S., \$20; Portsmouth, Aux., \$45; Raymond, Aux., with prev. contri. to const. L. M. Miss Harriet Edgerly, \$13; South Newmarket, Aux., \$4; Tamworth, Aux., \$4; Wentworth, Geo. D. and Ida M. Stone, Walla Walla, Wash. Ter., .50; John R. and Geo. D. Pickett, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, .50; Wilton, Aux., \$13; Marlboro', Aux, \$9, \$924 02
 Fisherville. — Aux., 15 50
 Fitzwilliam. — Aux., 20 75
 Henniker. — Cong. Ch. and Soc'y, 5 00

Total, \$965 27

LEGACY.

New Hampshire Branch. — East Derry, Miss Harriet Taylor, \$500 00

VERMONT.

Vermont Branch. — Mrs. Geo. H. Fox, Treas. (Cambridge, Aux., \$16; Bradford, Aux., \$8; Windsor, Aux., \$35; "Mission-Circle," \$10; Hartford, Aux., \$18.50; Castleton, Aux., \$6.02; Georgia, Aux., \$4.72; Bridport, "Lakeside Gleaners," \$12; Pittsford, "Sweetbrier," \$3.06; Morrisville, Aux., \$17.64; Rutland, Aux., \$13; Orwell, "Evergreens," \$10; Strafford, Aux., \$10.50), \$164.44; expenses \$30; balance, \$134 44
 St. Albans. — Mrs. A. M. Plant, 5 00

Total, \$139 44

MASSACHUSETTS.

Berkshire Co. Branch. — Mrs. S. W. Russell, Treas., Lee, Aux., \$261; Pittsfield, 1st Ch., Young Ladies' Miss'y Soc'y, \$14.45; Hinsdale, Aux., \$25, \$300 45
 Boston. — Berkeley-st. Ch., Ladies, 5 50
 Boston Highlands. — Miss Elizabeth Davis, \$50; Walnut-ave. Ch., Aux., \$3, 53 00
 Boxford. — Aux., 30 00
 Cambridgeport. — A Friend, 1 00
 Chelsea. — 1st Ch., Aux., of wh. \$5 for a friend, Kioto, \$8.50; Central Ch., Ladies of wh. \$25 to const. L. M. Mrs. C. P. H. Nason, \$27, 35 50
 Foxboro'. — Aux., B. R., 35 00
 Franklin Co. Branch. — Miss Lucy A. Sparhawk, Treas.,

Ashfield, Aux., \$50; "We Girls," 13; Coleraine, Aux., \$12; Sunderland, Aux., \$10; "Busy Bees," \$5; Greenfield, Aux. (of wh. \$25 by Mrs. E. S. Grinnell to const. L. M. Mrs. E. L. G. Ripley, Mrs. S. W. Eastman prev. contri. to const. L. M. Enma E. Chase, \$10), \$39.92; Orange, Aux., \$15.90, \$145 82
 Globe Village. — C. W. B., 5 00
 Hampshire Co. Branch. — Miss Isabella G. Clarke, Treas., Hatfield, Aux., \$61; Hadley, Aux., \$18.60; Belchertown, Aux., \$7; Granby, Aux. (of wh. \$25 to const. L. M. Mrs. A. C. Blaisdell), \$73.25, 159 85
 Harwichport. — Mrs. S. R. Munsell, 5 00
 Hopkinton. — From a Miss'y Garden, 6 00
 Housatonic. — Cong. Ch. and Soc'y, 20 00
 Lincoln. — 1st Cong. S. S., pupil Fochow, 40 00
 Newton Centre. — Aux., 68 46
 Northampton. — Salem. — Tabernacle Ch., Aux., B. R., 31 00
 Saxonville. — Aux., 25 35
 West Boyford. — Aux., 13 50
 West Newbury. — 1st Parish, Aux., 10 50
 West Roxbury. — Mrs. Edward Strong to const. L. M. Mrs. James Wilson, Pittsfield, 25 00
 Worcester Co. Branch. — Mrs. G. W. Russell, Treas., North Brookfield, Aux., \$27.97; Hubbardston, Aux., \$6.50; Clinton, Aux., \$35.35; Whitinsville, Aux., \$18.42; Winchendon, Mrs. Lucy D. Harris, \$10; a friend, \$5; Aux., \$7; "Busy Bees," \$25; Leicester, Aux., \$11; Millbury, 2d Ch., \$40; Leominster, Aux., prev. contri. to const. L. M. Mrs. Samuel Parker, \$4; Uxbridge, Aux., \$24.50; legacy of Miss S. D. Leland to const. L. M. Miss Lizzie L. Edmands, North Brookfield, \$25, 239 74

Total, \$1,275 67

Fem. Dep. Armenia College.

Malden. — Mrs. Joseph Sweetser, \$50 00
 Worcester Co. Branch. — Winchendon, two friends, 10 00

RHODE ISLAND.

Rhode Island Branch. — Miss Anna T. White, Treas., Providence, Union Ch., "Mission Helpers" (of wh. \$50 to const. L. M.'s Mrs. Dr. Behrends, Miss Rebecca Chase, \$50 for two schools, Free Ch., B. R., \$35; Central Ch., "Our Boys,"

Health Retreat, Pulney Hills, \$50; Central Ch., of wh. \$25 by Mrs. H. V. Lathrop to const. L. M. Miss Lucy N. Lathrop, \$617.25; Pilgrim Ch., \$88.10; "Little Pilgrims," \$20; Beneficent Ch., F. M. C., \$10; Bristol (of wh. \$50 by Mrs. Rogers, \$50 by Miss De Wolf), \$145; Chepachet, "Mayflowers," \$2.50; Barrington, "Mission-Circle," Aintab, \$30; Pawtucket, "Mission-Circle," \$125; Central Falls, Aux., \$16.02, \$1,238 91

Total, \$1,238 91

CONNECTICUT.

Bolton. — Ladies of Cong. Ch., and Soc'y, \$19 15

Eastern Conn. Branch. — Mrs. J. C. Learned, Treas., Hanover, "Girls' Mission-Circle," \$6; Norwich, Park Ch., Aux., \$3; 2d Cong. Ch. and Soc'y, \$59.25; Stonington, 2d Ch., \$10; "Agreement Hill Soc'y," \$6.25; North Stonington, Cong. Ch., \$10.36; Preston, Aux., \$7; Mystic Bridge, Aux., \$2; New London, 1st Cong. Ch. and Soc'y, \$85.24, 189 10

New Haven Branch. — Miss Julia Twining, Treas., Bethlehem, \$9; Bridgeport (of wh. \$25 fr. Mrs. David B. Nichols to const. herself L. M.), \$205.34; East Haddam to const. L. M.'s Mrs. F. J. Tiffany and Mrs. Alice C. Newbury, \$50; Kent, \$25; Litchfield, \$32; New Britain, South Ch. (of wh. \$25 fr. Mrs. Wm. H. Smith to const. Miss Louisa Flag L. M., \$5 to complete L. M.-ship of Mrs. Charles Peck), \$75; New Haven, "Willing Workers" of Fair Haven Second Ch., \$9; Third Ch., Mrs. Wm. Ives to support teacher at Marsovan, \$60; New Preston, \$40; Norfolk, "Mountain Wide Awakes," and "Home Jewels," \$80; Norwalk, \$200; Orange, \$10; Roxbury, for Japan, \$50; Salisbury, to const. L. M. Mrs. Lyman Warner, \$25; Saybrook, \$27.67; Sharon, festival proceeds, \$41.75; South Britain to const. L. M. Ruth Mitchell, \$25; Waterbury, "Centennial Workers" of First Ch., for Japan Home, \$100; Second Ch., \$32; Five Brothers Mission-Circle, \$1.57; Watertown "Gleaners," in memoriam of Jennie L. Allyn and Carrie L. Baldwin, \$10; Winsted, \$35.75; Woodbury, \$10.50; a friend, \$5, 1,159 58

Suffield. — Ladies' Miss'y Socy \$45 40
Thomaston. — Phebe Beach, 10 00
Total, \$1,423 23

Legacy.

Plainville. — Mrs. Delia R. Marsh, \$1,048 61

Total, \$1,048 61

NEW YORK.

Nassau. — Mrs. E. W. Sherman, \$10 00
New Lebanon. — Mrs. H. E. Decker, \$1; Miss Ella C. Decker, \$1, 2 00

New York City. — Olivet Mission Infant Sunday School, 25 00

Total, \$37 00

PENNSYLVANIA.

Philadelphia. — Plymouth Cong. Ch., Aux., \$2 83

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Washington. — Mrs. Clara H. Inch, \$1 00

Total, \$1 00

MICHIGAN.

Covert. — Aux., \$16 00

St. Peter. — Mrs. Jane A. Treadwell, 5 00

Total, \$21 00

IOWA.

Maquoketa. — Mrs. C. L. McCloy, \$5 00

Total, \$5 00

TEXAS.

Havilah. — Chas. E. Jewett, U.S. Army, \$25 00

Total, \$25 00

WYOMING.

Cheyenne. — Aux., \$16 00

Total, \$16 00

CANADA.

Sherbrook. — Mrs. Archibald Duff, \$5 00

Total, \$5 00

General Funds, \$5,204 64

Fem. Dep. Armenia College, 75 00

"Life and Light," 163 08

Weekly Pledge, 15

Leaflets, 70

Legacies, 1,548 61

Total, \$6,992 18

MISS EMMA CARRUTH, *Ass't Treas.*

Department of the Interior.

CENTRAL TURKEY.

BEGGARS FOR CHRIST'S SAKE.

STORY OF THE MARASH BANK.

How the influence of some act of ours may touch and mould the life of others separated from us by oceans and continents, and of whose very existence we are unaware, is seldom more clearly illustrated than by the following incidents. The little girls of the mission-bands basted the patchwork with patient skill, hoping to teach the Armenian girls of Marash to *sew*; but that it would arouse in them a desire to work for others and for Christ was not in all their thoughts. Miss Stevens, writing her letter in Japan, may have hoped to influence some in America to send the gospel to Japan; but did she hope to reach over into the centre of Turkey in Asia, and give concentration and force to the benevolent desires awakened by the patchwork? The old lady was intent on filling her bank, that she might help the Woman's Board in Boston; but she little dreamed that she was to point out to the now eager girls of Marash the only thing it was possible for them to do, nor that it was to result in bringing a very considerable sum to the treasury of the Woman's Board of the Interior. But we will let Mrs. Coffing's letters tell the story. Let all who basted patchwork listen.

MARASH, June 6, 1876.

Ever since our girls saw the patchwork, and heard the letters read which accompanied it, they have wanted to do something for others. For a long time neither they nor I could think of any thing they could do, they being very poor; and it was with difficulty they could get work enough to earn five paras (half a cent) to carry to sabbath school. A few days ago "The Missionary Echoes" in their new form reached us for the first time, and I read this little scrap to them: "But it is not necessary that missionary banks should contain nothing but pennies. The other day a dear old lady came into the rooms of the Woman's Board in Boston, bringing fourteen dollars in ten-cent scrip. This is the way she gathered them:—

“She was writing to a friend in Brooklyn, N.Y., and she asked her to send her a ten-cent scrip for her bank. Soon a letter came back with, not only one from her friend, but one from every member of her family, each with a name on it. This friend wrote to other friends; and soon the old lady’s bank began to fill with ten-cent pieces from all parts of the United States, and even from Europe, till it would hold no more.”

There, I said, is something you can do. If you cannot find work to do, you can beg for Jesus. The word “beg” they did not like; but I told them it was not nearly so humiliating for them to beg for Jesus as it was for him to die on the cross for them. After a few minutes’ talk they all held up their hands, promising to do something themselves, and to ask every one of their friends to give five paras for Japan. Their interest in Japan had been awakened by hearing one of Miss Stevens’s letters read.

For my part, I was to prepare the bank, and put it up in the hall, where every one could see it. I then gave them some facts in regard to the girls’ school, and the work among the women in Japan; and their native teachers referred them to their geography for other items. The bank was not to be opened for a year; but such was their zeal, that before I could get the bank “built,” and ready to receive their deposits, they had collected four dollars. Every one that comes into the yard has to listen to the Japan story, and is asked for five paras.

As yet only two persons have refused to give them something; and almost every one has given more than they asked for, some much more.

The girls now hope that in the year they will be able to get more than the “dear old lady” did; for the whole fifteen girls are to work for the bank when they go home next month, and six of these girls are to teach next year, and will thus earn something. May the Lord bless you all, and make you as happy in your efforts to do something for others as the girls are in trying to fill the bank!

AUG. 3, 1877. — You will remember the “Beggars for Christ’s Sake,” and the way they began their work in Marash. When they went to their villages that vacation, they found money a scarce article; but, nothing daunted, Rahel and Kohar took a bag, and went from house to house, and from shop to shop, saying, “If you have not money, give us what you have.” In that village the men work in iron, and the women in goat’s hair. So the girls returned with goat’s hair, horseshoe-nails, eggs, and wheat; which, being sold, gave them nearly a dollar for the Japan box.

The girls in the other villages heard what these two had done, and said to their friends, "We, too, will take whatever you can give us:" so no one was able to beg off with the excuse, "I have no money;" and every one of our out-stations, except Sis and Albus-tan, thus gave something. Besides the horseshoe-nails and goat's hair, eggs, milk, butter, beans, chickens, corn, millet, lentils, raisins, red peppers, walnuts, and boards were contributed.

Then on New Year's, among our room-decorations, Miss Spencer arranged a wreath of flowers and leaves, within which were the words, "From Japan a voice comes" (in Turkish it is a very smooth sounding sentence). Under the words was a picture, cut from "The Well-Spring," of a Japanese idol, with men chewing their prayers written on bits of paper, and throwing them on to the idol. I taught the story to two or three of the youngest of the little girls; and every group of callers had it repeated to them, and were requested to give "besh, or para" (half a cent or cent) to send a teacher to teach the Japanese to pray to the true God. Few went away without giving something, and some women who had nothing with them to give sent in afterwards; and the next day, when the children came, every one had his five or ten paras, and could not sit still till it was in the box.

And still the girls begged from every person who came in, that had not given, until the day the box was opened; and some of them wrote letters to persons in other places, whom they could not see.

The result was, that, on opening the box, we found nearly *five and a half pounds sterling* (5*l.* 10*s.*); and five persons soon made it up to that sum, two of them literally giving the widow's mite, or all they had, or expected to have for months. This sum we are now sending to the Woman's Board of Missions of the Interior for the evangelizing of Japan. May it do as much good there as it has done our girls to collect it!

J. L. COFFING.

AFFAIRS AT AINTAB.

LETTER FROM REV. A. FULLER.

[The following paragraphs, from a letter written by Rev. A. Fuller of Aintab to a friend in Chicago, embody in brief space much valuable information upon practical points.]

Do you ask, What about the times? Well, they are very critical, and, I suppose, somewhat dangerous. Every thing has the air, and

gives the impression, that any stray spark might kindle a conflagration at almost any time. There are almost always plenty of bad rumors afloat among the people, and always more or less insult and wrong done to Christians because they are Christians; but never since we came here (and the brethren say not in twenty years) has there been any thing like the present state of things. The talk that has been made about making Christians really equal in and before the government has stirred Mussulman fanaticism very deeply. However, the government at Constantinople is under immense pressure these days, and is doing its utmost to preserve quiet in the provinces, and especially to prevent outrages on Christians where there are foreign witnesses, and is especially emphatic in its requirements of the various governors to look well to it that the foreigners are in no way molested. So long, then, as the present government at Constantinople stands, and retains its present relations with England and the United States, we have nothing to fear personally, unless it be from some sudden furious passion, such as raised the mob at Salonica. What I suppose we have most reason to apprehend is, that the Central Government may be overthrown, or so weakened and embarrassed, that its influence here will be destroyed. In that case, it would not be so comfortable living inland.

Now for your questions. Average congregations in Aintab and Marash, eight hundred each, about one-half women. In villages one hundred to one hundred and fifty is reckoned a fair congregation. In Aintab churches perhaps one-third of the congregation would be church-members. The Sunday school and congregation are identical in all our fields. The children of our Protestant families always accept the Protestant faith and practice, but perhaps are not quicker to find the real power and life of the gospel than children in America. Natural hearts make the same struggle with the truth here as there. Yes, young people from old Armenian families are often converted, and come to join us. In such cases they are still generally disowned, and sometimes whipped, and in other ways bitterly persecuted; though, in that regard, affairs here are rapidly changing for the better.

The sabbath is carefully and well kept by the Protestants; but the Armenians make it largely a day of holiday. In this, however, the influence of Protestant teaching on the old church has been very marked. I should say that church-members here would compare favorably with those in America in the matter of Christian

living. Intemperance is not a crying evil here; that is, it is not common. Very little wine is used; and both Mussulmans and Christians think it a disgrace to drink the *raki*, a kind of brandy which is the only other intoxicating drink found here.

I should say the crying sin of the people was duplicity and cant. Everybody is pious, and will talk "just like a minister," if you will not trip him up on some personal question. I should say the morals of the people are good, though their customs with regard to marriage and the general inferiority and subjection of women are shameful, and form one of the chief barriers to our work.

There is not much profanity here of the kind or temper we are accustomed to in America; but there is a great deal of what I should call profane praying. Everywhere and always they are invoking Allah. The people generally are crafty and cheating: there are few that you can safely trust under much pressure in a matter of business.

Cost of living varies greatly with years, and times of the year. It is not unusual for staple products, like meat and wheat, to vary *four or five fold* in price. That is one way in which some men get very rich here, while generally the people are so poor. The average price of mutton per pound, about eight cents; of chicken, ten cents; of coarse flour, three cents; of white loaf-sugar, fourteen cents; Mocha coffee, twenty-five cents. Fruit is usually very cheap, and in its season abundant. Foreign goods come chiefly from France and England. Petroleum comes from America. Horses are worth from thirty to one hundred dollars. There are very few cows and oxen, and those very poor and scrawny. Sheep and goats are everywhere. The soil is generally thin; aspect of the country, treeless and barren. Plains are rich, and in winter and spring are green and beautiful, but parched and unsightly in summer and autumn. Cultivation the same as in days of Abraham, only, I doubt not, much more carelessly attended to. Principal fruit, grapes, oranges, plums, mulberries, apricots, figs, some peaches, apples, and pears, but not often very good. Vegetables are turnips, carrots, onions, beets, cabbages, potatoes, tomatoes (introduced by missionaries), coarse squashes, excellent melons of all kinds. All these things are very cheap, and sometimes very fine, though generally, excepting grapes and figs, we could easily get better at home.

How glad I am to hear of the wonderful work of the Lord in

Chicago, and of its spread in the North-West! I am interrupted by a notice that the governor's family are coming to call: so I must close, and prepare for a state reception. I wish you could see it.

INDIA.

VISIT TO SEVALPATTI.

BY MISS TAYLOR.

KODI KANAL, April 26, 1877.

You will have heard that I was alone at Mandapasalai from the 9th of February till the 26th of March. During that time I made a visit to Sevalpatti, the first since Pastor Thomas was settled there. Of course the journey must be made in the night: so I started Friday evening in my new transit cart, which is as easy as a Pullman palace-car. At night I can lie down in it, and in the day-time, by removing the middle boards, there are seats at each end. Three of the school-girls — Gnamamal, Taiavai, and Arlahamal — went with me.

I charged the guide, who carried the lantern, to go by way of Paralachi; but, after we had travelled some distance, the conveyance stopped. On inquiry I learned that we had strayed "a little" from the right path. At our second halt I discovered that the good man had thought to give me a pleasant surprise by taking a different course. Please to remember that it was a dark night: the guide, in trying to find his way, took the lantern and went nearly out of sight, while the girls and I went stumbling around in the darkness, trying to find a road. I instilled it into his mind that he must retrace his steps, and find his way to Paralachi, a distance of three miles. Having arrived there, I secured a guide to lead our guide, and proceeded without further hinderance, arriving in Sevalpatti about five in the morning. Pastor Thomas met me a few miles beyond Paralachi, and walked before us all the way, carrying a gun. When we reached his house, he went in, and his wife came out to offer me refreshments; but, after the adventures of the night, I preferred to remain in the cart a little while for a morning nap. When I got out at sunrise, I found, that, since they had heard I would come, they had put up a little room where I might go to make my morning toilet. Every thing in the house was as neat as possible. A real table-cloth, white and clean,

was spread upon the table, and cakes and coffee in their own brass dishes neatly arranged upon it, and some wreaths of jessamine piled up in the centre.

After partaking of these refreshments, I received calls from heathen and Christian women till breakfast, which was at nine. Among others was a Brahmin with his young wife. There was nothing arrogant or affected in his manner. He seemed to be a most devout heathen, but did not look happy. His young wife was an unusually pleasing young woman. She appeared so intelligent, I wondered if some lady had not taught her; but, on inquiry, learned she had never studied, except in a heathen day school, before she was eight years old; then she was married to this man, with whom she has lived ever since. She was dressed in a nice silk cloth and jacket, and wore pretty jewels. She was modest, but not afraid to talk with us, and appeared glad to make our acquaintance. When the pastor's wife asked her to come to her house often, she said, "Certainly I must come to your house; and you must come to my house." Strange invitation from a Brahmin woman to one of another caste! She brought her child, which was ill, hoping I could do something for it. After breakfast she came again without her baby, and remained nearly through my woman's meeting. She promised to return again in the evening, after my visit to the seashore. I did not see as many Christian women as I might at another time, because many had moved away on account of the famine.

After the meeting I went to the beach, four miles distant, purely for my own gratification. The pastor's wife and children went with me; the little folks rejoicing in some new calico clothes I had given them, which were sewed by my school-girls. The oxen toiled slowly through the deep sand and thick growth of thorn-brush, and performed such evolutions that I got out and walked a part of the way. We had to avoid our accustomed spot on account of the prevalence of cholera at that place; but at last we reached a beautiful grove of young cocoa-trees, extending to within a few feet of the water. The trees were so close together as to form a perfect protection from the sun. The girls enjoyed the sight of the ocean exceedingly. They had thought it was like some large tank. When I go again after vacation, I shall take some of the other large girls. At sunset, as they were gathering up the things, I had a quiet walk outside the grove. We reached the pastor's house at ten in the evening; but the oxen I had were so poor I did

not reach my home in Mandapasalai until sunrise. The people were becoming alarmed, and were about to send a messenger to inquire about me, when the girls spied my cart. But I attended to my Sunday duties as usual.

Some evenings during those weeks I was alone, I used to call the girls to my room, and have them read to me, or have them sew while I read to them. Tungamal, who was taken out of school two years ago on account of her mother's ill health, has been allowed to return this year. I was very glad to welcome her back; for she is a nice girl. She united with the church while in her village.

There have been no conversions in the school during the year; but I was glad to see that the four who united with the church last year seemed to be growing in knowledge and in Christian character. I have had one married couple in school, named Abraham and Sarah. She is a bright, sensible woman; but the care of her child hindered her, so that she was not able to read fluently when she left school. I told her husband, that, if Sarah could read with perfect ease when I returned from the mountains, I would give her a Bible, a reading-book, &c., such as I give to the girls who are good scholars, when they leave school. I left her Todd's "Lectures to Children" to read in vacation, and I hear she is reading every day. We are glad to have this valuable book published in Tamil. It was done by the Christian Vernacular Education Society.

I still continue to take the little Tamil papers and magazines for my schools, distributing them, after they have been read, to my former pupils to read to their friends. I find I can manage to have my former pupils all come to visit me at one time, which they will do hereafter. By this plan I can have some exercises especially for them, and make it profitable.

I left some books for the girl who is betrothed to Simon Catechist, to read during vacation, and I hear that she reads pretty regularly. She is to be in school until her marriage in June. When she came last June, she was entirely ignorant, having come from a heathen family. It was very pleasant to see her manners softening, her affectionate disposition manifesting itself, and intelligence lighting up her face. I think from her conduct, and from some remarks she made, that her heart is touched, and that she desires to be a Christian.

Martha, the teacher, and Samuel's wife, spent ten days in Kan-

nirasapuram, by the sea, in April. She writes that they can at any time find large and interested audiences of women. They held daily prayer-meetings with the women, at which not less than ten attended at any time.

Home Department.

THE LITTLE GRAINS OF SAND.

THE busy mother mentioned in the following article, who agreed to "help them all she could," doubtless remembered how He that walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks said, "*Strengthen the things that remain, that are ready to die.*"

"In August, 1876, our pastor's wife invited all the girls of our Sunday school, outside the infant class, to supper, and to talk about a missionary society. There were about forty present. The society was not organized that day; but all who were interested in the formation of one were invited to come in two weeks (*no supper*). Fifteen came at the appointed time; and 'Little Grains of Sand' was the appropriate name with which the young society came into public notice.

"A few met at the parsonage from time to time, some with fancy-work, and some to sew carpet-rags; but the enthusiasm died out with most. Sickness in the family made it impossible for them to meet any longer there, and it seemed likely to share the fate of many similar societies that have had good beginnings.

"The moving spirit in it was still in earnest, however. The constitution, prepared by Mrs. Rhea, was read, and approved by many of the ladies; but no one felt 'competent' to take charge of the society, and no one had the time or strength, as she thought. Some weeks passed by, with an occasional inquiry from some of the girls 'when the society was to have a meeting.'

"At last a lady of small physical strength, the mother of five young children, said the society should not die for lack of a place to meet; that they might come to her house every two weeks, on Saturday afternoon, and she would help them *all she could*. So their spirits revived; and, during this hot summer, eight or ten little girls have met, and faithfully worked on pin-cushions, scrap-bags,

holders, &c., until the year came around, and it was decided they should have a social with supper, and sell their fancy articles. When all was gathered in, we were surprised at the number of things. Some of the older brothers had contributed brackets and easels of their own sawing. The ladies tacked a comforter which the girls had pieced. One little boy had made two splint baskets for the society on rainy days at home, which had not only helped the society, but been a great blessing to his mother's nerves.

"The girls were all enthusiasm about the fair; and the faithful few were more than delighted when it was found that the receipts of the sale and the supper were over twenty-five dollars. The pledge money already on hand made it thirty; and I think during the year some has been handed over to the treasurer of our ladies' society besides. If Miss Van Duzee is with you, she will be pleased to know that the pin-cushions covered with Turkish cloth she gave found a ready sale; also the little stones, picked up at Trebizond and elsewhere, brought over a dollar.

"Two lessons have been made plain by this result: one is, that mothers of young children, burdened with household cares, with small measure of bodily strength or of unoccupied time, if they have an earnest, cheerful spirit, intent on helping on the work of the Lord, can do much. Without the encouragement and help of the two I have mentioned, the 'Little Grains of Sand' would have been scattered.

"My second lesson is, that now, as in the olden time, it is the *few* who win the victory. Those whose courage and perseverance do not fail, the Lord will bless, and crown with success. There is little doubt that these same girls who have been so encouraged by the results of their first year's efforts in the missionary cause will continue to be interested workers for it, and will increase in efficiency as the years go by."

L. N.

LARKSPUR-SEED.

WE are greatly indebted to Mr. Edward Knight of Sun Prairie, Dane County, Wis., for ten pounds of chamomile-flowers and three pounds of larkspur-seed, freight prepaid, for the use of our missionaries in Turkey. In future, those articles, and also these and other varieties of seeds for planting, may be obtained of Mr. Knight by those wishing to purchase. We mention this especially for the benefit of our little gardeners and mission-circles that may wish to raise these plants in their missionary gardens.

ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Woman's Board of Missions of the Interior will hold its Ninth Annual Meeting at Davenport, Io., on Wednesday and Thursday, Nov. 7 and 8, 1877.

Mrs. Watkins of Mexico, Miss Porter of China, Mrs. Wheeler and Mrs. Van Duzee of Turkey, and other missionaries, are expected to be present.

Auxiliary societies will please appoint delegates, prepared with written reports, or report through their state secretaries. Ministers' wives, and all ladies interested in foreign missions, are cordially invited. Those desiring entertainment will please send their names at once to Mrs. S. F. Smith, 1302 Main Street, Davenport, Io., from whom they will receive cards of introduction to the places to which they are designated. Delegates will please mention the train by which they will arrive in Davenport.

If any reduction of railroad-fares is secured, it will be announced through "The Advance."

A NEW SUGGESTION.

"WE cannot sustain the interest during the warm season," say many of our friends. Let them lay up this suggestion for future summers. Why should not these beautiful out-of-door entertainments be used for the highest ends?

In July our auxiliary met socially with me for a lawn party. We sent for the ladies from neighboring towns, and invited our young ladies to meet with us. One hundred and fifty guests assembled. Mrs. Haskell of Bulgaria was present, and spoke to the ladies. Several ladies united in preparing the simple supper, so that it was not burdensome for the hostess. These entertainments greatly promote the interests of the society. E.

A NEW LEAFLET. — "Thanksgiving Ann" has been reprinted from "The Pacific," for use at missionary meetings, "teas," sociables, &c. Send for copies to the secretary of the Woman's Board of Missions of the Interior, 75 Madison Street, Chicago. Price 2 cents each, or 15 cents per dozen.

RECEIPTS OF THE WOMAN'S BOARD OF MISSIONS OF THE INTERIOR.

FROM AUG 15, 1877, TO SEPT. 15, 1877.

MRS. FRANCIS BRADLEY, TREASURER.

OHIO.			ous contributions to const.
<i>Bellevue.</i> — Aux., for salary of Miss Parmelee,	\$12 00		Mrs. Elizabeth Carlton L. M., \$13 50
<i>Chagrin Falls.</i> — Avails of Corals, \$1.15; Tithes, .35,	1 50		Total, \$134 45
<i>Cincinnati.</i> — Vine-st. Ch., Aux., for salary of Miss Parmelee,	25 00	IOWA.	
<i>Ruggles.</i> — Mission - Band, for salary of Miss Collins,	14 40	<i>Durant.</i> — Aux., for salary of Miss Day,	\$4 00
Total,	\$52 90	<i>Fairfax.</i> — Aux.,	7 40
		<i>Fairfield.</i> — Aux.,	10 00
		<i>Green Mt.</i> — Aux., \$5, with previous contributions to const.	
		Mrs. Helen Boree a L. M.; the Helpers, \$2,	7 00
MICHIGAN.		<i>Keokuk.</i> — By Miss Collins, the gift of Miss Whipple,	5 00
<i>Calumet.</i> — Busy Bees,	\$8 85	<i>Lyons.</i> — Aux.,	31 00
<i>Detroit.</i> — Sunbeam Band, for school at Battalagundu,	25 00	<i>Marion.</i> — Aux.,	20 00
<i>Dundee.</i> — Aux.,	9 00	<i>Stacyville.</i> — Aux.,	3 00
<i>Jackson.</i> — East Side, Aux., for the Kobe Home,	12 00	Total,	\$92 50
<i>Marshall.</i> — Aux.,	10 00		
<i>North Raisinville.</i> — Aux.,	5 00	MINNESOTA.	
<i>St. Clair.</i> — Mrs. Higby,	5 00	<i>Plainview.</i> — Aux.,	\$12 00
<i>Wayne.</i> — Aux., for Miss Pinkerton's salary,	8 50	<i>Minneapolis.</i> — Aux., for Miss Barrows's salary,	75 00
Total,	\$83 85	<i>Mankato.</i> — Aux., for Miss Barrows's salary,	10 00
		Total,	\$97 00
		KANSAS.	
ILLINOIS.		<i>Manhattan.</i> — Aux.,	\$10 35
<i>Aurora.</i> — 1st Ch., Aux.,	\$15 42	Total,	\$10 35
<i>Chicago.</i> — Ladies of, for Miss Whipple's expenses, \$33; Union Park Ch., Aux., for salary of Miss Rendall, \$38.15,	71 15	NEBRASKA.	
<i>Evanston.</i> — Aux., for salary of Miss Porter,	24 15	<i>Lincoln.</i> — Aux., with previous contributions to const. Miss Priscilla Nicholson of Erz-room a L. M.,	\$20 00
<i>Lombard.</i> — 1st Ch., S. S., for salary of Miss Dudley,	19 38	<i>Steele City.</i> — Aux.,	5 00
<i>Payson.</i> — Aux.,	15 00	Total,	\$25 00
<i>Port Byron.</i> — Mission-Circle,	8 00		
<i>Springfield.</i> — Aux., for salary of Miss Evans, and to const. Miss Lewie Spear a L. M.,	25 00	COLORADO.	
Total,	\$178 10	<i>Colorado Springs.</i> — Aux.,	\$2 70
		Total,	\$2 70
		MISCELLANEOUS.	
WISCONSIN.		<i>Portland, Oregon.</i> — For the Kobe Home,	\$44 50
<i>Alderly.</i> — Aux.,	\$5 00	<i>Huntington, West Va.</i> — Aux.,	12 50
<i>Mazomamie.</i> — Aux.,	5 95	Sale of locket,	1 00
<i>Milwaukie.</i> — Aux., of Spring-st. Ch., for Stomato,	60 00	Total,	\$58 00
<i>Ripon.</i> — Aux., to const. Mrs. Charlotte Richmond and Miss Zoe Hodge L. M.'s,	50 00	Total,	\$727 00
<i>Wauwatosa.</i> — Aux., with previ-			

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